

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-09 DODE-00 CIAE-00
EB-08 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 SP-02 SOE-02 DOE-15
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 6697

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC PARM TECH ENRG AR
SUBJ: US/ARGENTINE NUCLEAR COOPERATION

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 6586, (B) BUENOS AIRES 6022
(C) BUENOS AIRES 6221

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO CNEA OFFICIALS, A NUMBER
OF CHANGES AND ADDITIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY IN THE
US MODEL AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION BEFORE IT
COULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO ARGENTINA. FULL-SCOPE SAFE-
GUARDS IS NOT A PROBLEM BUT SUCH ITEMS AS THIRD
COUNTRY FABRICATION, REPROCESSING, AND PROVISION
OF HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY PRESENT PROBLEMS FOR
ARGENTINA AND SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN ANY JOINT DIS-
CUSSIONS FOR COOPERATION. CNEA IS INTERESTED IN
MAINTAINING A CONTINUOUS DIALOGUE ON THESE AND OTHER
ISSUES SUCH AS REQUESTS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM. CNEA
PLANS TO HAVE A 2 1/2 TON HEAVY WATER PILOT PLANT CON-
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STRUCTURED BY 1980 THAT WILL SERVE AS A TRAINING
FACILITY FOR A LARGER 200 TON PLANT IF HEAVY WATER
TECHNOLOGY IS NOT PROVIDED FROM OTHER SOURCES.
THEY DO NOT FEEL HEAVY WATER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
A SENSITIVE PART OF TECHNOLOGY. EMBASSY REQUESTS
DEPARTMENT AND DOE ACTION ON ARGENTINE ENRICHED
URANIUM REQUESTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION JORGE COLL, SECRETARY-GENERAL CNEA, TOLD SCICOUNS THAT THE US "MODEL AGREEMENT" FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION WAS UNDER REVIEW BY CNEA STAFF. HE INDICATED THAT BOTH HE AND MARTINEZ FAVINI (LEGAL COUNSELOR) FEEL THAT A NUMBER OF CHANGES AND ADDITIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT BEFORE IT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE BY CNEA. SCICOUNS AGAIN EMPHASIZED THAT THE MODEL AGREEMENT WAS ONLY FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND SHOULD BE REGARDED ONLY AS A BACKGROUND DOCUMENT FOR TALKS ON EXPANDED COOPERATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW AGREEMENT THAT WOULD BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE.

3. COLL SAID FULL-SCOPE SAFEGUARDS WOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM SINCE THIS WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED BY AN AGREEMENT DIRECTLY WITH LAEA FOLLOWING THE RATIFICATION OF TLAELOLCO. HOWEVER, THE PROVISIONS ON NON-ALLOWANCE OF THIRD PARTY FABRICATION AND FUEL REPROCESSING WERE TWO ITEMS AMONG SOME OTHERS THAT WOULD REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF STUDY AND DISCUSSION. IT WAS AGREED THAT WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS WE WOULD MEET AGAIN WITH PRES. CASTRO MADERO TO CONTINUE THE DIALOGUE ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION AND DISCUSS THE PARTICULAR DETAILS.

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4. REGARDING THE RECENT CNEA DECISION TO ACCEPT SEVEN BIDS ON THE NEW PILOT HEAVY WATER PLANT AT THE ATUCHA ATOMIC CENTER, SEE REFTEL 6586, COLL SAID THIS WOULD BE PRIMARILY USED FOR TRAINING AND EXPERIMENTAL PURPOSES AS WELL AS TO PRODUCE ABOUT 2 1/2 TONS A YEAR BEGINNING IN 1980 FOR THE WASTAGE AND EVAPORATION OF THE ATUCHA PLANT. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS FACILITY AS A PILOT TRAINING PLANT FOR THE FUTURE CONSTRUCTION OF A LARGER CAPACITY PLANT IF ARGENTINA COULD NOT OBTAIN THIS TECHNOLOGY FROM THE US OR CANADA. HE INDICATED THAT HEAVY WATER TECHNOLOGY DID NOT SEEM TO HIM TO BE A SENSITIVE FORM OF TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS REPROCESSING OR ENRICHMENT AND DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROVISION OF THIS TECHNOLOGY BY THE US SHOULD BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF FURTHER TALKS AND NEGOTIATIONS.

5. FINALLY COLL INQUIRED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE CNEA REQUEST TO THE US FOR 37.5 KILOS OF 20 PERCENT ENRICHED URANIUM FOR THE PERUVIAN REACTOR (REFTEL 6022). SCICOUNS INDICATED THAT SINCE THIS WOULD REQUIRE THIRD COUNTRY FABRICATION, WHICH IS

NOT ALLOWABLE UNDER NEW REGULATIONS, IT IS LIKELY THAT AS AN INTERIM MEASURE, A SEPARATE EXCHANGE OF NOTES WOULD BE NECESSARY ON THIS TRANSACTION.

6. COMMENTS: WE DID NOT DISCUSS THE ZIRCONIUM ISSUE SINCE EMBASSY IS WAITING FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO PREPARE A NOTE THAT COULD BE PRESENTED TO CNEA FOR REVIEW. AT THE PRESENT TIME CASTRO MADERO FEELS THAT THE PROVISION OF ZIRCALOY TO WEST GERMANY BY THE US IS A PROBLEM BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES AND NOT ARGENTINA (SEE REFTEL 6221.)

EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE DEPARTMENT AND DOE ACTION ON THE ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR 37.5 KILOS OF ENRICHED URANIUM AS WELL AS THE CONFIDENTIAL

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EARLIER REQUEST OF 12 KILOS OF 90 PERCENT ENRICHED URANIUM.
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